

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SINGAP 02583 261639 Z

70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FMC-04 INR-10 NSAE-00

CG-00 COA-02 MC-02 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 L-03 H-02 OMB-01

PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 DOTE-00 RSR-01 /145 W

----- 054822

R 260830 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9017

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

CMHMBRA/ CINCPACFLT

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 2583

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ETRN, UR, SN

SUBJECT: SOVIET USE OF SINGAPORE SHIPYARDS

REFERENCE: DAO SINGAPORE IR 6887 0059 73 CONTAINED IN DAO  
MESSAGE 010815 Z JUNE ( NOTAL)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. AS RESULT OF CONTINUED RUSSIAN INTEREST IN  
SEMBAWANG SHIPYARD REPORTED REFTTEL, EMBASSY HAS RAISED  
WITH GOS OFFICIAL AND AZNUK HIGH COMMISSIONS QUESTION  
OF GOS POLICY REGARDING SOVIET SHIPS IN STRAITS OF  
JOHORE AND SEMBAWANG VICINITY.

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2. GOS OFFICIAL ASSURES US THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN POLICY. NO SOVIET SHIPS WILL BE REPAIRED AT SEMBAWANG AS LONG AS THERE IS AN ANZUK PRESENCE THERE. PASSAGE OF SOVIET OR BLOC SHIPPING IN VICINITY OF SEMBAWANG WILL BE MINIMIZED, AND IN ANY EVENT ANZUK WILL RECEIVE ADVANCE NOTICE OF SUCH PASSAGE. ASSURANCES TO THIS EFFECT WERE GIVEN ANZUK POWERS VERBALLY IN 1971. THERE HAVE BEEN FEW INSTANCES OF BLOC SHIPPING, SUCH AS NORTH VIETNAMESE/ SOVIET CHARTER PASSING SEMBAWANG TO TAKE ON POL NEAR CAUSEWAY.

3. INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSIONS ALSO WERE HELD THIS PAST WEEK WITH ANZUK HIGH COMMISSIONS REQUESTING THEIR EVALUATION OF FIRMNESS OF GOS POLICY. THEY ARE UNANIMOUS THAT POLICY REMAINS UNCHANGED. THEY ARE ALSO UNANIMOUS IN BELIEF THAT ANY DECISION TO CHANGE WOULD BE BASED ON POLITICAL NOT ECONOMIC CONSIDERATION. ARGUMENT CAN BE MADE THAT ECONOMIC/ COMMERCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AT SOME FUTURE TIME MAY BRING PRESSURE WITHIN SEMBAWANG SHIPYARD MANAGEMENT TO ACCEPT SOVIET SHIPPING. HOWEVER, A SOVIET CONTRACT WOULD NOT BE SIGNED WITHOUT PRIOR GOS APPROVAL.

4. SHIP REPAIRING IS ONE OF SINGAPORE' S BOOMING INDUSTRIES AND HAS LED TO CONTINUING CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL SHIP REPAIR FACILITIES, INCLUDING A MAJOR NEW DRYDOCK AT SEMBAWANG. COMPETITION MAY GET KEENER, BUT THERE APPEARS TO BE PLENTY OF BUSINESS FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE. SEMBAWANG' S SKILLS AND FACILITIES ARE CONSIDERED BEST IN SINGAPORE AND IT IS LIKELY SOVIETS WILL CONTINUE PRESS FOR THEIR USE ON BASIS OF SHIP REPAIR NEEDS, IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER CONSIDERATIONS THEY MAY HAVE IN MIND. HOWEVER, IF GOS WISHES TO ACCOMMODATE SOVIETS IN GOVERNMENT SHIPYARDS, IT CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE DIRECT THEM TO KEPPEL OR TO JURONG SHIPYARD. FORMER IS WHOLLY OWNED BY GOS AND LATTER IS GOS JOINT VENTURE. GDS. CRONK

SECRET

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980226  
**Subject:** SOVIET USE OF SINGAPORE SHIPYARDS  
**TAGS:** ETRN, PBOR, SN, UR  
**To:** CANBERRA  
DIA WASHDC  
EA  
JAKARTA  
KUALA LUMPUR  
LONDON  
MOSCOW

SECSTATE WASHDC  
WELLINGTON

**Type:** TE

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